

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-10 AID-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /113 W

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R 111625Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4062

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0665

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PROP MO US

SUBJECT: AFRIQUE ASIE COMMENT ON US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS

1. MARCH 8-21 EDITION OF TWICE MONTHLY, ALGERIAN-SPONSORED FRENCH MAGAZINE, AFRIQUE ASIE CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED "HOW KISSINGER IS TRYING TO SAVE HASSAN." PIECE KEYS ON ALLEGED SECRET COMMUNICATION BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS RE SUPPLY OF F5S TO MOROCCO AND NOTES THAT, FOUR DAYS LATER, HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL HAD COMMENTED ON DEAL TO NEW YORK TIMES. ARTICLE QUOTES OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT AMERICAN "INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS ARE TO MOROCCO AND TRANSACTION RELATIVE TO THE EQUIPMENT IS PROOF OF THIS."

2. ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT F5 DECISION AND ALLEGED US ENCOURAGEMENT OF MADRID TRIPARTITE DECLARATION END CREDIBILITY OF US CLAIM OF NEUTRALITY IN SAHARA DISPUTE. FIVE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT ADDS, MAKE SITUATION EVEN MORE SERIOUS:

A. SECRETARY HAS GIVEN "CERTAIN OF MOST IMPORTANT
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SENATORS" TO UNDERSTAND THAT HASSAN MUST BE SAVED SINCE

HIS FALL WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING REPERCUSSION IN ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA.

B. SECRETARY HAS EQUATED SAHARA WITH ANGOLA AND SPECIFIED THAT DEFEAT OF HASSAN WOULD BE AS GRAVE AS REVERSES SUFFERED BY FLNA AND UNITA.

C. HASSAN SUPPORTED US POLICY IN VIETNAM, REFUSED TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL AFTER 1967 WAR, MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES WITH BEST US ALLIES SUCH AS JORDAN AND IRAN, AND PROVIDES A COUNTER TO ADVANCING ANTI-WESTERN FORCES IN AFRICA.

D. SECRETARY HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO LEAD CONGRESS INTO ERROR BY SAYING THAT US ARM SUPPLIES WOULD NOT UPSET BALANCE OF FORCES IN AFRICA.

E. IN ANY CASE, SECRETARY HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT US CHOICE BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO ALREADY MADE.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY CITING QUOTATION AFRIQUE ASIE HAD EARLIER ATTRIBUTED TO KING HASSAN: "FROM TANGIER TO LUANDA, CONFLICT IS THE SAME."
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